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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkey: draft resolution

# Assistance to the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/170 of 21 December 1993, in which it recognized the necessity of improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

Recalling also its resolution 48/169 of 21 December 1993, entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries", and expecting that the newly independent land-locked States in Central Asia will participate in the activities and meetings referred to in that resolution,

Recalling further the agreed conclusions and recommendations on priority areas and modalities for further action to improve transit systems in land-locked and transit developing countries of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, convened by the Trade and Development Board in New York from 17 to 19 May 1993, as set forth in the report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts, 1/

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1/ TD/B/40(1)/2-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/4.

Recalling further in particular those paragraphs of the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts pertaining to the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

Noting that these countries are seeking to enter world markets and that such an objective requires the establishment of a multi-country transit system,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of these countries,

Recognizing also that most of the countries providing alternative transit routes are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

Supporting the current efforts being undertaken bilaterally and multilaterally by the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours to address the issues of the development of a viable transit infrastructure in the region,

Recognizing the important role played by bilateral cooperative arrangements by multilateral agreements, by regional and subregional cooperation and, in particular, the Economic Cooperation Organization, which the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/2, invited to participate in its sessions and work in the capacity of observer, in solving the transit problems in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on transit transport systems of the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours: current situation and proposals for future action, 2/

Noting that this report, as stated in paragraph 1 of its introduction, represents a first approximation only towards a fuller elaboration of more concrete programmes of action for dealing with the issues,

Recognizing that to be effective, a transit transport strategy for the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours should incorporate actions that both address the difficulties inhering in the use of existing transit routes and pave the way for the early development and smooth functioning of new, alternative routes,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening international assistance for carrying out a comprehensive and full-scale analysis of the transport and transit problems of the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours in order to make concrete

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2/ A/49/277.

recommendations, establish priorities and seek support for implementation action needed to improve the transport and transit situation in these countries,

1. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and with other relevant regional organizations, to elaborate a programme for improving the efficiency of the current transit environment in the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours and to make a comprehensive analysis of the transit system for Central Asian countries, paying particular attention to the development of all new, appropriate and feasible alternative transit routes and corridors, including the shortest ones, and to submit an interim progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

2. Calls upon donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

3 Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and the Executive Secretaries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe, to provide technical assistance to the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours in such areas as the elaboration of adequate arrangements for payment systems for transit services, the improvement of physical transit infrastructure facilities and regional transport planning, the development and updating as appropriate of bilateral, regional and subregional transit facilitation agreements and arrangements, and the accession to relevant international conventions in the field of transport and transit;

4. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, and the Economic Cooperation Organization and with other relevant regional organizations, to hold a regional symposium for the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours during the first half of 1996 to evaluate the progress of action on the recommendations contained in the present resolution and to agree on an appropriate follow-up programme of action;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

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